

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 DHA-02  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 /064 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON  
APPROVED BY ARA:FDEVINE  
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS  
D:SOXMAN  
EB/IFD:FTHOMAS  
ARA/ECP:RTAYLOR  
S/S:MR GAMBLE  
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-----110054Z 126939 /64

O R 102340Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, SHUM, ES

SUBJECT:MEETING WITH SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR

SUMMARY: AT MAY 9 MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS REQUESTED BY SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR, HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE U.S. WOULD SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF VOTE ON \$90 MILLION HYDRO-ELECTRIC LOAN PENDING BEFORE IDB. U.S. DECISION BASED PRIMARILY ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS BUT THERE WAS ALSO SOME  
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QUESTION ABOUT PROJECT'S ECONOMIC LONG-RANGE RATIONALE. RICHARDSON CASE WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED. IF QUERIED ON U.S. POSITION ON THIS LOAN, EMBASSY SHOULD DECLINE COMMENT UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ARA ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DEVINE MET WITH SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR BERTRAND GALINDO AFTERNOON OF MAY 9

AT BERTRAND'S REQUEST. PURPOSE OF MEETING, ACCORDING TO BERTRAND, WAS TO SOUND OUT U.S. POSITION ON PROPOSED \$90 MILLION LOAN PENDING BEFORE IDB FOR THE SAN LORENZO HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT.

2. AFTER SHOWING SOME INITIAL RELUCTANCE TO RAISE LOAN ISSUE, BERTRAND FINALLY DID SO SAYING HE HAD HEARD THE USG WAS GOING TO VOTE AGAINST IT.

3. DEVINE ANSWERED BY REVIEWING BRIEFLY FOR BERTRAND THE ADMINISTRATION'S MANY EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE. HE RECALLED FOR BERTRAND REFERENCE TO THIS ISSUE IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S OAS SPEECH AND NOTED AS WELL THE HIGH LEVEL OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ASSURED BERTRAND, LEST THERE BE ANY DOUBT, THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN EL SALVADOR HAD BEEN SPEAKING FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN HIS DEMARCHES ON THE SUBJECT.

4. THE UNITED STATES WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE FEBRUARY 20 ELECTIONS. WE WERE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE TREATMENT SOME AMERICAN CITIZENS HAD ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED THERE AND ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE GOES INVESTIGATION REGARDING RICHARDSON. FINALLY, QUESTIONS ABOUT SAN LORENZO'S LONG-RANGE RATIONALE -- GIVEN THE OVERALL CENTRAL AMERICAN ENERGY SITUATION -- DID SEEM TO MERIT SOME FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

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5. CONSEQUENTLY, THE UNITED STATES HAD DECIDED TO SEEK A POSTPONEMENT OF THE IDB'S CONSIDERATION OF THE SAN LORENZO PROJECT LOAN. WE WERE DOING SO PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF OUR CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR INQUIRED AS TO HOW LONG A POSTPONEMENT WAS CONTEMPLATED, DEVINE SAID THAT WE HAD NO SPECIFIC PERIOD IN MIND BUT HOPED AND TRUSTED THAT WITHIN A PERIOD OF A FEW WEEKS, OR MONTHS, WE WOULD SEE DEMONSTRABLE PROGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR WHICH WOULD ALLOW US IN GOOD CONSCIENCE TO SUPPORT THE LOAN.

6. BERTRAND SUGGESTED THAT SUCH ACTION MIGHT NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN EL SALVADOR, THAT IT MIGHT BE "INTERPRETED AS INTERVENTIONISM", AND URGED THAT THE USG ACTION BE RECONSIDERED. THE US ACTION MIGHT EVEN CAUSE THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT TO "FOUNDER" (ZOZOBRAR). HE PROPOSED THAT THE UNITED STATES VOTE IN FAVOR OF SAN LORENZO, BUT THROUGH HIM INFORM THE SALVADORAN

GOVERNMENT THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT LOANS WOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED UNLESS THERE WERE IMPROVEMENT IN THE SALVADORAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

7. DEVINE REPLIED THAT OUR DECISION ON THIS CASE WAS FIRM, BUT THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF A CONFRONTATION, HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT ITSELF MOVE TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION

OF THE LOAN. BERTRAND GAVE NO INDICATION WHETHER THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT THIS.

8. BERTRAND SOUGHT TO "CLARIFY" EXACTLY WHAT THE UNITED STATES WANTED THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT TO "DO" ON THE RICHARDSON CASE. THE SALVADORAN ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S EVIDENCE ON THE CASE, BUT THE EMBASSY, FOR SECURITY REASONS, HAD DECLINED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVIDE IT. THOSE IN A POSITION TO KNOW THE FACTS, ACCORDING TO BERTRAND, MAINTAINED THEIR PREVIOUS STATEMENTS. DID WE WANT THE GOES TO USE TORTURE TO GET THEM TO SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE ACTUALLY OCCURRED? THIS SITUATION PRESENTED "A ROAD WITH NO EXITS" FOR THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT.

9. DEVINE REPLIED THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFICS OF THE RICHARDSON CASE, BUT WE DID NOT VIEW THIS AS A ROAD WITH NO EXITS. OBVIOUSLY, WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY USE OF TORTURE. WITH SOME IMAGINATION, HOWEVER, THERE WERE STILL WAYS TO ACHIEVE EXPEDITIOUSLY A POSITIVE RESOLUTION. ARA/CEN DIRECTOR MATTHEWS SAID THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME OUR DOUBTS ABOUT RICHARDSON'S FATE WERE BEING REINFORCED AND NOT DISPELLED BY SALVADORAN ACTIONS. WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS A HIGH-LEVEL DECISION TO EXPEDITE THE INVESTIGATION AND A THOROUGH AND FORTHCOMING REPORT.

10. DEVINE EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE THE RICHARDSON CASE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US, IT IS NOT THE ONLY HUMAN RIGHTS ELEMENT CLOUDING OUR RELATIONS AND AFFECTING THIS LOAN. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER MISTREATMENT BY AUTHORITIES OF AMERICANS RESIDING IN EL SALVADOR AND THAT THE SITUATION DEPICTED IN DISTURBING ALLEGATIONS WE HAVE BEEN HEARING RECENTLY OF VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVES.

11. BERTRAND OBVIOUSLY WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE NEWS BUT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

AND PROMISED THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT FORTHWITH THIS INFORMATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT. DEVINE INVITED BERTRAND TO MEET WITH HIM AGAIN SHOULD HE WISH TO DISCUSS THE REACTION OR POINT OF VIEW OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S CONVERSATION.  
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12. FYI: SINCE THE USG HAS NOT YET MADE ITS POSITION ON THIS LOAN PUBLIC, THE EMBASSY SHOULD, IF QUERIED, DECLINE COMMENT PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. THE LOAN

IS NOW SCHEDULED TO COME BEFORE THE IDB BOARD ON MAY 18. TECHNICALLY, THE USG CAN OBTAIN ONLY A SHORT POSTPONEMENT IF THE BENEFICIARY COUNTRY REQUESTS A VOTE. IF EL SALVADOR REFUSES TO JOIN US IN SUPPORTING POSTPONEMENT, WE WILL PROBABLY BE FACED WITHIN A MONTH WITH A DECISION ON WHETHER TO VOTE FOR THE LOAN OR TO VETO IT. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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**TAGS:** PFOR, EFIN, SHUM, ES, US, IDB  
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